Sick fertilizer PSEs

†1711. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) has suggested for investment of Rs. 50,000 crores at Government level to re-operate sick public sector factories producing chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has prepared a proposal to re-operate sick units on the basis of partnership with the private sector; and

(d) if so, the facts and the assessment of total property of these sick units in September, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (d) The Government has decided to explore the feasibility of revival of the closed public sector fertilizer units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) subject to assured availability of natural gas, to meet the emerging demand production gap of urea in the country. The Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) with the mandate to evaluate all investment options for revival of the closed units on FCIL/HFCL and to make suitable recommendation for consideration of the Government. ECOS has already considered various possible investment options for revival of the each of the closed units and have finalized its recommendation regarding the suitable financing option. Recommendations of the ECOS are under consideration of the Government.

Comparison of cost of production of fertilizer using gas and naphtha

†1712. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cost of production of chemical fertilizers is more with the use of naptha in comparison to use of gas as a fuel;

(b) if so, the facts in this regards;

(c) the assessment of cost of production of fertilizers after the use of both above said fuels in the year 2008-09; and

(d) the respective production percentage of fertilizer by using gas and naphtha as fuel in the country in the year 2008-09?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, Cost of production of chemical fertilizer-urea is more with the use of naphtha in comparison to use of gas as a fuel.

(b) and (c) The details are as under :

	Gas based units	Naphtha based units
Weighted Average Provisional concession rate during 2008-09 (Rs/MT of Urea)	10891 (20 Units)	23352 (4 Units)

(d) The production percentage of fertilizer is as under:

	Gas based Units	Naphtha based Units	FO/LSHS based Units
Production of Urea	79% (20 Units)	10% (4 Units)	11% (4 Units)

Import of sub-standard urea by Indian Potash Ltd.

1713. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a ship-load of urea imported by State owned Indian Potash Ltd. through Pipavav Port in Gujarat has been found to be sub-standard;

(b) whether the disputed cargo from Bandar Abbas in Iran was earlier rejected by Pakistan and later diverted to India through forged shipping documents;

(c) whether Government had ordered the vessel to be detained and quality check to be conducted by an independent team of officials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) No, Sir. Samples of urea cargo in vessel MV Saint Peter imported through Indian Potash Limited (IPL) were drawn by the Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute (CFQ and TI), Faridabad during discharge operation of the vessel at Pipavav port which were found to be as per the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) specifications.

(b) On the basis of complaint of urea being sub-standard and rejected by the Pakistan, an independent inspection team of the Government officials was deputed for further investigation. The team has observed that the pre arrival notification of security submitted by the Master of the